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PILOT CURRICULUM PROGRAM PHASE II: 2005-2006

Italian Heritage Curriculum: "The Universality of Italian Heritage"

Unit Four: Kindergarten & First Grades
DRAFT -- Lesson Plan #1

"Pinocchio and the Importance of Honesty"

Grades K-1

Language Arts/Character Education/Art/World Languages

Purpose:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the country of Italy.
2. Explain the history of the original story of Pinocchio and author, Carlo Collodi.
3. Compare the original story and the Disney story.
4. Identify the genre of the story as a Fairy Tale.

Materials:

- Access to the internet
- Access to a library
- Copy of Carlo Collodi's Adventures of Pinocchio
- Copy of Disney's Pinocchio
- Globe or world map
- White construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Poster Board and Black Board
- Index cards (Kindergarten)
- Pinocchio movies (either version)

Theme:

The Italian story of Pinocchio, developed as a children's novel by Italian author Carlo Collodi, was completed as a book in 1883. Entitled *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (*Le Avventure di Pinocchio*), this classic work tells the story of the exciting adventures of a wooden puppet and his father, named Geppetto, a woodcarver. The story has many character-building lessons, such as the importance of honesty, and has become a favorite children's story. Disney adapted the story to an animated film version, with which most children in the United States are familiar. However, the stories do differ in a number of respects, similar to the way in which the original Grimm's Fairy tales differ from their modern counter-parts.

This lesson plan is about the story of Pinocchio and the importance of truth and character development. Students will focus on the significance of telling the truth and the value of accepting responsibilities. They will also discuss the history of the original story written by Carlo Collodi, and they will learn about his background. Students will have the Disney version of the story read to them aloud in class. They will discuss some of the differences and similarities between the original story and the Disney version.

"Pinocchio" means "Pine eyes" or "little pine" in the Italian language. The genre of the story is considered to be a fairy tale. For purposes of classroom discussion, the principal characteristics of fairy tales are:

- Typically begin with the concept of "Once upon a time" and end with "Happily ever after"
- Contain magic
- Usually have lessons or morals
- Usually have princes or princesses involved in the story

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For more detailed information regarding preparation for this lesson plan, please use the following websites:

History of the original Pinocchio story at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinocchio>

Background information on Carlo Collodi at:

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/collodi.htm>

Activities: Kindergarten

- I. Discuss the history of the original story written by Carlo Collodi and give some background on the author.
- II. Identify on a globe or world map the country of Italy.
 - a. Locate the city of Collodi (from which the author took his last name) and the city of Florence (the setting of the story).
- III. Read the Disney version of the story aloud to the class.
 - a. Many students may already be familiar with the story.
- IV. Discuss some of the differences and similarities between the original story and the Disney version.
- V. On a black board or poster board make a chart with two categories “Good” and “Bad.”
 - a. Ask the students to help you list Pinocchio’s actions from the story in the appropriate columns.
 - b. Create a similar chart this time having the students name actions they do for each category.
 - c. Compare the two sides and discuss what they can do to limit the number of “Bad” actions and do more “Good.”
- VI. Discuss with the students whether Pinocchio is a true story.
 - a. Explain that it is called a fairy tale.
 - b. We know it is a fairy tale because it has the characteristics of a fairy tale.
 - i. Ask the students to identify some of the characteristics in the story.
- VII. Pinocchio did not have a very good memory in the story.
 - a. To improve your class’ memory, play a memory game.
 - b. You may want to use a game you have purchased or you may want to make one of your own using index cards and creating your own pictures, numbers, colors, letters, shapes, or even downloads pictures from the story Pinocchio.

Grade 1:

- I. Identify on a world map or globe the country of Italy, the city of Collodi, and the city of Florence.
- II. Discuss with the students some background history of Carlo Collodi.
- III. Read aloud to the students the original story of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi.
- IV. Ask the students to name some similarities and differences between the original story and the story retold by Disney.
- V. Ask the students the following discussion questions.
 - a. Record their answers on poster board or a black board or duplicate the questions and have each student write their own answers as you read the questions.
 - b. This will depend on your class’ writing abilities.
 - i. What does it mean to be honest?

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- ii. What is a lie?
- iii. What is a consequence?
- iv. What is a conscience?
- v. What did Pinocchio need to accomplish to become a real boy?
- vi. Why do you think he had so much difficulty following the right path?
- vii. Was Honest John really honest?
- viii. Why do you think this was his name?
- ix. What lesson could be learned from this story?
- x. Did Pinocchio learn an important lesson?
 - 1. How do you know?
 - 2. Was there something in the story that told you?

- VI. Explain to student that honesty is a very important quality. Our two greatest presidents had reputations of being very honest men. Abraham Lincoln was called “Honest Abe,” for reasons very different than why they called “Honest John” honest. You can tell students of the story of George Washington chopping down his father’s cherry tree and

when asked, saying, “I did it, for I cannot tell a lie.” Many people debunk this story as the invention of Washington’s first biographer, Parson Weems. More recent scholarship, however, reveals that the story does have some basis in fact. Apparently, Washington did cut branches off his father’s tree and did confess to the deed. Weems, or an earlier source, embellished the story, but people had no problem believing the tale because of Washington’s esteemed reputation for honesty.

- VII. Have the students draw on white construction paper their favorite part of the story and share them with the class.
- a. They may also write a sentence on the bottom of the page telling about their picture.
 - b. This would depend upon your class’ writing abilities.